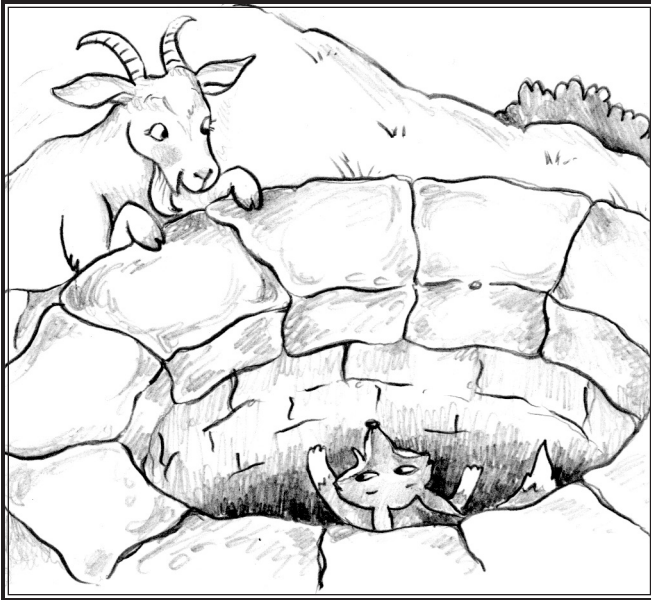


- Teacher's Page -

A Well of Trouble

Background

This story is based on the Aesop fable "The Fox and the Goat." The original moral of this story is "Do not trust the advice of someone in trouble." This is also the fable from which comes the famous advice, "Look before you leap."



Warm-Up Activity: Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Instruction

Introduce the students to some of the multi-syllable words in this story, and ask the students to clap their hands along with the syllables. Here are some words to start:

Tricky	Speedy	darted	answered
water	going	farmer	scrambled
silly	finally		

Then use the same words and ask the students to say the first part of the word, and then the last part. For example, for "water," the first part of the word is /w/ and the last part is /-er/.

Add a phonics exercise for this story. There are a number of words in "A Well of Trouble" that start with blends and digraphs. Introduce these to your students. Some words from the story that you might want to use for this exercise are:

Greta	thought	drank	flew
bleat	thirsty	show	chewed
close	smiled		

Say each word out loud and ask the students to identify the two sounds that make up the blend or digraph.

Warm-up Activity: Fluency

Repeated readings of the same portion of text can be a big help to fluency. Choose a short section of dialogue, such as the opening exchange between Speedy and Tricky. Ask pairs of students to give a dramatic reading of the dialogue. Suggest that they try different inflections and voices for the lines (*you will probably want to model this for them first*).

Be sure to have each pair of students read the dialogue at least four times. In order for this not to become tiresome for the class, team up all of the students and then circulate around the classroom to listen to the readings of each pair. You can hand out copies of the Peer Reading Rubric on page 6 for this exercise.

Warm-up Activity: Vocabulary

Before reading the story, review these vocabulary words with your students:

sparrow	trot	darted	suddenly
shady	scrambled	bleat	finally

The story questions on page 18 contain activities about word families, blends, multi-meaning words, homophones, and text comprehension.

Character Education Connection:

Discuss the moral of the story.

- What does it mean to "look before you leap"?
- Why should Greta not have trusted Tricky?
- What friend did Greta have who she could trust?
- Who are your trusted friends?

Science Connection:

In Aesop's fables, the fox is cunning and tricky. What real-life qualities do foxes have that led Aesop to this portrayal? Have your students look up facts in books or on the Internet about the fox.